

CLAIMS

1. An implantable defibrillator comprising:
 - at least first and second input leads for sensing atrial and ventricular electrical signals from a heart;
 - a therapy circuit for delivering electrical energy through one or more of the leads; and
 - a monitoring circuit for monitoring the electrical signals through one or more of the leads, the monitoring circuit comprising:
 - programmable means for storing one or more cross-chamber blanking settings; and
 - means for implementing a cross-chamber blanking period based on one of the settings.
2. A dual-chamber defibrillation or cardioversion system comprising:
 - a dual-chamber defibrillator or cardioverter including first and second leads for sensing signals from respective first and second chambers of a heart and a monitoring circuit for monitoring signals sensed at the first and second leads, the monitoring circuit having:
 - a memory means for storing one or more cross-chamber-blanking settings; and
 - cross-chamber-blanking means responsive to one of the settings for disabling sensing signals at either the first or second lead for a preset time period based on the one setting; and
 - means for changing one or more of the cross-chamber blanking settings after implantation of the defibrillator or cardioverter.

3. In an implantable dual-chamber defibrillation or cardioversion system including a defibrillator or cardioverter and a programming device, a method comprising:
 - storing one or more cross-chamber-blanking settings in the defibrillator of cardioverter;
 - invoking a first cross-chamber blanking period based on one of the cross-chamber-blanking settings;
 - changing one or more of the cross-chamber blanking settings in the defibrillator or cardioverter; and
 - invoking a second cross-chamber blanking period based on the changed cross-chamber-blanking settings, with the second cross-chamber blanking period having a nominal duration different from that of the first cross-chamber blanking period.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein changing one or more of the cross-chamber blanking settings comprises wirelessly transmitting one or more cross-chamber blanking settings from the programming device to the defibrillator or cardioverter.
5. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
 - computing a first noise window duration based at least on the one cross-chamber-blanking setting; and
 - invoking a first noise window period based on the first noise window duration, with the first noise window period occurring after the first cross-chamber blanking period.